

NORTHWEST HERALD

Crystal Lake to apply for federal money to rebuild Route 14-Virginia Road intersection

Published: Monday, Feb. 6, 2017 11:34 p.m. CST

[CRYSTAL LAKE](#) – The city will petition for federal funds to defray the costs of improving the three-way intersection of Route 14 and Virginia Road.

The City Council is expected to vote Tuesday evening to apply to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning for a grant to cover part of the expenses of redesigning and rebuilding the busy intersection. The agency is tasked with distributing federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program funds to worthy projects and asks each year for submissions.

Traffic volume has exceeded the intersection's capacity, and Virginia Road is susceptible to significant backups during peak travel times, according to city documents. Also, the intersection has no pedestrian accommodations and the traffic signal equipment is nearing the end of its life.

Sure to compound area traffic are the recently announced plans to replace the closing Sears store just east of the intersection – which has access to both Route 14 and Virginia Road – [with a Mariano's specialty grocery store](#).

City plans call for adding an additional left-turn lane on Virginia Road, an additional eastbound right-turn lane on Route 14, upgrading the signal equipment and adding pedestrian amenities where feasible.

The city's estimated share of the cost should the funding be approved is \$290,400. Tuesday's vote will not allocate any money to the project.

The federal CMAQ program has funded other Crystal Lake projects, such as traffic signal interconnection on Route 14 between Route 176 and Woodstock Street, and the additions of sidewalks and bicycle paths throughout the city.

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